

**THE REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN  
THE FILM *OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN* (2013)**



**THESIS**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of Requirements  
for The *Sarjana Sastra* Degree in English Department  
Faculty of Cultural Sciences  
Sebelas Maret University**

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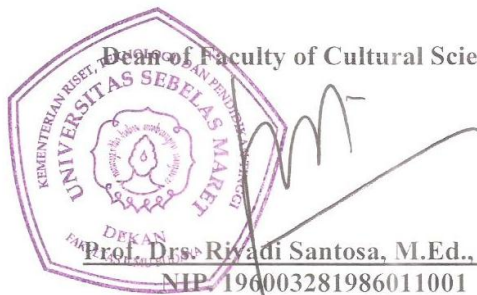
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## PRONOUNCEMENT

This thesis entitled “*The Representation of African American Leadership in the Film Olympus Has Fallen (2013)*” is originally written and conducted by myself. There is no plagiarism whatsoever. Any citations and references in this thesis are written in a direct quotation and/or in paraphrase and included in the bibliography. I am ready to take a responsibility if this pronouncement incorrect in the future, including the withdrawal of my degree.

Surakarta, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Julio Budhi Kusumawardana

## **MOTTO**

The best revenge is massive success.

(Frank Sinatra)

KISS: Keep it simple, stupid.

(Kelly Johnson)

If life is not smiling at you, give it a little tickling.

(Anonymous)

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to:

My mother and father

&

The future mother of my children

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, my praise to Allah SWT for the all the blessing, this thesis entitled “*The Representation of African American Leadership in the Film Olympus Has Fallen (2013)*” miraculously can be finished. Secondly, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to:

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Ultimately, this imperfect thesis hopefully will be useful and provides a different perspective for readers and people who are interested in American studies, African American studies, and film.

Surakarta, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Julio Budhi Kusumawardana



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## ABSTRACT

**Julio Budhi Kusumawardana. C0311025. The Representation of African American Leadership in the Film *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Cultural Sciences. Sebelas Maret University.**

This thesis is written based on the analysis of the film *Olympus Has Fallen* starred by an African American actor Morgan Freeman. It is aimed to explain how the film represents the leadership of a character of African American President named Allan Trumbull and how he handles his power as the president of the United States through him.

It is a descriptive qualitative research in which the data are taken from the film *Olympus Has Fallen* in the form of dialogue, *mise-en-scene*, camera angle, frame or shot, lighting, sounds, and other cinematographic elements of the film. Meanwhile, the supporting data are retrieved from books, journals, website pages, and other references.

This is an American cultural studies research that employs some approaches and theories. There are two approaches: historical approach and sociopolitical approach; and three theories: race and ethnicity theory by Roderick A. Ferguson and Henry Yu, leadership theory by Victoria C. DePaul and Michael Siegel, and semiotics film theory by James Monaco and Jonathan Bignell.

The research concludes that the film *Olympus Has Fallen* represents an African American president in which his followers and the American citizens are not bothered by the color of his skin and also how his blackness does not affect his approach to leading not only just his black community, but also to his country. The film also shows that an African American can be in the level of high ranking officer in the capital or even a president, since the U.S. Constitution does not provide any prohibition for certain races to be the president as long as they are American citizens. Moreover, the way the African American handles the power in the film can be seen through his leadership qualities that led him to the accomplishment of his vision as the President of the United States. The character Allan Trumbull shows that he has leadership qualities: situational analysis, innovative, decision-maker, empowerment, risk-taker, vision, few major goals at a time, and intrapreneurial leadership.

**Keywords:** African American, president of the United States, leadership, leadership quality